Mullauna Secondary College
MITCHAM

'Success through learning together'

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

@ 12 August 2026

Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Mullauna Secondary College General Office.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

(a) our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students;
(b) expectations for positive student behaviour;
(c) support available to students and families;
(d) our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Mullauna Secondary College is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. We understand that students reach their full potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and that a positive school culture helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

The objective of this policy is to support our school to create and maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment consistent with our school's values.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions.

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POLICY

1. School profile

Mullauna Secondary College is a medium-sized co-educational secondary school in Mitcham. Student enrolment is approximately 650 with slightly more boys than girls enrolled.

Mullauna Secondary College is committed to child safety. A defining characteristic of the college is its safe and harmonious atmosphere, which fosters a high standard of student behaviour, marked by self-discipline and consideration for others.

Mullauna Secondary College has a strong tradition of academic excellence, active student leadership and participation, as well as outstanding Music, Sporting and Debating Programs. The college programs offer breadth of pathways and Year 10 students can access VCE subjects. Mullauna Secondary College also delivers an International Student Program.

The College implements programs designed to promote student connectedness, morale and attendance. The use of technology is embedded into learning & teaching programs. These programs are embedded in the College curriculum. They include:

- Camps & Excursions
- Leadership and resilience training
- Middle Years Programs – Challenge, Skillz
- Well-being Workshops
- E-Safety Workshops
- Respectful Relationships Workshops
- Peer Support Program
- Learning Conferences

An extensive student leadership program allows students to contribute to the decision-making processes of the College as well as learning the value of leadership and commitment to community.

The school is divided into a Senior School (10-12) and a Middle School (7-9). Each sub school is led by a Leading Teacher and each year level is overseen by a Year Level Co-ordinator (YLC) who establishes positive relationships with students and promotes a sense of unity amongst the students of that year level. In addition, there is a Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Metal Health Practitioner and Student Adolescent Health Nurse who works closely with the YLC and teachers to address the needs of individual students.

At Mullauna Secondary College, we believe a student learns best when the family and school are working in partnership with the common goal of achieving the best possible educational outcomes. To that end, our school has a web-based school management platform, called Compass, enabling effective communication and engagement processes. This portal is designed to provide parents with secure, direct access to everything parents need to know about their child's education.

2. School values, philosophy and vision

Mullauna Secondary College's Statement of Values and School Philosophy is integral to the work that we do and is the foundation of our school community. Our vision for our students is that they will grow to be responsible young people who value and respect learning. We value the pursuit of excellence and strive to provide opportunities for all students to experience success across a range of areas and contribute positively to their community. The College motto, *Success through Learning Together*, reflects our belief that excellence is best achieved when students, teachers and parents work in partnership.
Students, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to live and demonstrate our core values of creativity, courage and community at every opportunity.
The College values:

- **Creativity**
  - Be creative: think, ask and explore
  - Look for new interests and different perspectives
- **Courage**
  - Commit: preserver and strive to achieve your personal best
  - Look for opportunities in uncertainty and complexity
- **Community**
  - Be courteous, kind and compassionate
  - Be accountable: contribute to a safe and sustainable environment

Our school's vision is to empower students to reach their personal best and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.
Our full School Philosophy document is available in the School Policies folder on Compass.

3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies

Mullauna Secondary College has developed a range of strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students in our school. We acknowledge that some students may need extra social, emotional or educational support at school, and that the needs of students will change over time as they grow and learn.
A summary of the universal (whole of school), targeted (year group specific) and individual engagement strategies used by our school is included below:

Universal

- *high and consistent expectations of all staff, students, parents and carers*
- *prioritise positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing*
- *creating a culture that is inclusive, engaging and supportive and that embraces and celebrates diversity and empowers all students to participate and feel valued*
- *welcoming all parents and carers and being responsive to them as partners in learning*

- *analysing and being responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, Attitudes to School Survey, parent survey data, student management data and school level assessment data*
- *deliver a broad curriculum including Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), VCE - Vocational Major (VM) and Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) to ensure that students are able to choose subjects and programs that are tailored to their interests, strengths and aspirations*
- *teachers at Mullauna Secondary College use VTLM 2.0 instructional framework to ensure an explicit, common and shared model of instruction to ensure that evidenced-based, high yield teaching practices are incorporated into all lessons*
- *teachers at Mullauna Secondary College adopt a broad range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles, strengths and needs of our students and follow the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers set by the Victorian Institute of Teaching*
- *our school's Values (Curiosity, Courage, Community) are incorporated into our curriculum and promoted to students, staff and parents so that they are embedded and celebrated as the foundation of our school community*
- *carefully planned transition programs to support students moving into different stages of their schooling*
- *positive behaviour and student achievement is acknowledged in the classroom, and formally in school assemblies and communication to parents*
- *monitor student attendance and implement attendance improvement strategies at a whole-school, cohort and individual level*
- *students have the opportunity to contribute to and provide feedback on decisions about school operations through the Student Representative Council. Students are also encouraged to speak with their teachers, Year Level Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal whenever they have any questions or concerns.*
- *create opportunities for cross—age connections amongst students through school productions, swimming and athletics, music programs and peer support programs*
- *All students are welcome to self-refer to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, School Mental Health Practitioner, Year Level Coordinators, Head of Junior School, Head of Senior School, Head of Student Engagement and Wellbeing, Assistant Principal and Principal if they would like to discuss a particular issue or feel as though they may need support of any kind. We are proud to have an 'open door' policy where students and staff are partners in learning*
- *we engage in school wide positive behaviour support with our staff and students, which includes a range of programs including:*
    - *Respectful Relationships*
    - *Teen mental health first aid training*
    - *Digital Thumbprints*
    - *Peer Support*
    - *Brainstorm Productions*
    - *Pat Cronin Foundation*
    - *Dogs Connect*
- *programs, incursions and excursions developed to address issue specific behaviour (i.e. anger management programs)*
- *opportunities for student inclusion (i.e. sports teams, recess and lunchtime activities)*
- *peer support programs*

- *measures are in place to empower our school community to identify, report and address inappropriate and harmful behaviours such as racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination or harassment.*

Targeted

- *each year group has a Year Level Coordinator, who monitor the health and wellbeing of students in their year, and act as a point of contact for students who may need additional support*
- *Koorie students are supported to engage fully in their education, in a positive learning environment that understands and appreciates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture*
- *connect all Koorie students with a Koorie Engagement Support Officer*
- *offer all Koorie students an Individual Education Plan managed by a Marrung lead teacher and a Student Support Group (SSG) each term.*
- *our English as an additional language students are supported through our EAL program, and all cultural and linguistically diverse students are supported to feel safe and included in our school.*
- *we support learning and wellbeing outcomes of students from refugee backgrounds. For example – School Focussed Youth Services provided by the City of Whitehorse*
- *we provide a positive and respectful learning environment for our students who identify as LGBTIQ+ and follow the Department's policy on LGBTIQ Student Support [insert any specific measures at your school to support LGBTIQ+ students]*
- *students with a disability are supported to be able to engage fully in their learning and school activities in accordance with the Department's policy on Students with Disability, such as through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans*
- *staff will apply a trauma-informed approach to working with students who have experienced trauma*
- *students enrolled under the Department's international student program are supported in accordance with our legal obligations and Department policy and guidelines at: International Student Program*
- *all students are assisted to develop a Career Action Plan, with targeted goals and support to plan for their future*
- *all students in Out of Home Care have an Individual Education Plan, a learning mentor and a Student Support Group (SSG) each term and will be referred to Student Support Services for an Educational Needs Assessment*
- *Mullauna Secondary College assists students to plan their Year 10 work experience, supported by their Career Action Plan*
- *wellbeing and health staff undertake health promotion and social skills development in response to needs identified by student wellbeing data, classroom teachers or other school staff each year*

Individual

Mullauna Secondary College implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:

- *building constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances*
- *meeting with student and their parent/carer to talk about how best to help the student engage with school*
- *developing an Individual Education Plan and/or a Behaviour Support Plan or Attendance Plan.*
- *considering if any environmental changes need to be made, for example changing the classroom set up*
- *referring the student to:*
    - *school-based wellbeing supports*
    - *Appropriate external supports such as council based youth and family services, other allied health professionals, Headspace, child and adolescent mental health services or ChildFirst*
    - *Re-engagement programs such as Navigator*

Where necessary the school will support the student's family to engage by:

- *being responsive and sensitive to changes in the student's circumstances and health and wellbeing*
- *collaborating, where appropriate and with the support of the student and their family, with any external allied health professionals, services or agencies that are supporting the student*
- *monitoring individual student attendance and developing an Attendance Improvement Plans in collaboration with the student and their family*
- *running regular Student Support Group meetings for all students:*
    - *with a disability*
    - *in Out of Home Care*
    - *and with other complex needs that require ongoing support and monitoring.*

4. Identifying students in need of support

Mullauna Secondary College is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure our students are supported intellectually, emotionally and socially. The Student Wellbeing team plays a significant role in developing and implementing strategies help identify students in need of support and enhance student wellbeing. Mullauna Secondary College will utilise the following information and tools to identify students in need of extra emotional, social or educational support:

- personal, health and learning information gathered upon enrolment and while the student is enrolled
- attendance records
- academic performance records
- observations by school staff such as changes in engagement, behaviour, self-care, social connectedness and motivation
- attendance, detention and suspension data
- engagement with families
- self-referrals or referrals from peers

5. Student rights and responsibilities

All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff, parents and carers treat each other with respect and dignity. Our school's Statement of Values highlights the rights and responsibilities of members of our community.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their education
- feel safe, secure and happy at school
- learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, discrimination or intimidation
- express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- respect the right of others to learn.

Students who may have a complaint or concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted teacher a member of the wellbeing or school leadership team. Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy which can be found in the School Policies folder on Compass.

6. Student behavioural expectations and management

Behavioural expectations of students, staff and families are grounded in our school's Statement of Values. Student bullying behaviour will be responded to consistently with Mullauna Secondary College*'s Bullying policy which can be located in the School Policies folder on Compass.*

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Mullauna Secondary College *will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines and Behaviour policy. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.*

Our school considers, explores and implements positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as detention, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class.

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to inappropriate behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to ensure that factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour are identified and addressed. Disciplinary measures at our school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with an opportunity to be heard.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- *warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate*

- *teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour*
- *withdrawal of privileges*
- *referral to the Year Level Coordinator*
- *restorative practices*
- *detentions*
- *behaviour support and intervention meetings*
- *Student Support Group*
- *suspension*
- *expulsion*

Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy
- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy
- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy

In line with Ministerial Order 1125, no student aged 8 or younger will be expelled without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training. The Principal of Mullauna Secondary College is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school and will not be used in any circumstance.

7. Engaging with families

Mullauna Secondary College values the input of parents and carers, and we will strive to support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners. We aim to be partners in learning with parents and carers in our school community.

We work hard to create successful partnerships with parents and carers by:

- ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school learning management system, Compass and college website.
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff, supported by our Communicating with School Staff policy.
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- involving families in school decision making
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families
- including families in Student Support Groups, and developing individual plans for students
- conduct events to help families feel connected to our school community

8. Evaluation

Mullauna Secondary College collects data each year to understand the frequency and types of wellbeing issues that are experienced by our students so that we can measure the success or otherwise of our school based strategies and identify emerging trends or needs. Mullauna Secondary College will also regularly monitor available data dashboards on Compass to ensure any wellbeing or engagement issues are acted upon in a timely manner and any intervention occurs as soon as possible.

Sources of data that will be assessed on an annual basis include:

- student survey data
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- case management
- CASES21, including attendance and absence data

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and learning management system, Compass
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carer notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

- Suspension process
- Expulsions - Decision

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following Department of Education and Training policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:

- Attendance
- Behaviour - Students
- Child Safe Standards
- Koorie Education
- Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care
- Students with Disability
- LGBTIQ Student Support
- Behaviour - Students
- Suspensions
- Expulsions
- Restraint and Seclusion
- Student Engagement

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Mullauna College School Philosophy and Statement of Values
- Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Assessment and Reporting Policy
- Homework Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy

All of the above policies are located on Compass.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy Last Reviewed	July 2026
Consultation	School council: August 2026 SRC: August 2026
Approved by	Principal – Harry Ruff
Next scheduled review date	August 2028